

BLUFF Strokes

Affiliate of Dubuque County Fine Arts Society

Historic Dubuque, IA, on the Mississippi River

July 12-14, 2024

Getting Confident with Watercolor



INSTRUCTOR: John Preston

John grew up on all 3 coasts and moved to Iowa in 1979. He received a BFA from Maharishi International University in 1984 and has been painting full time since 1986. His initial focus was the agricultural landscape, primarily images from southeast Iowa. That focus shifted to its small towns and rivers and more recently to travel subjects from Europe. He conducts workshops and participates in regional Plein Air events. He has exhibited widely in Iowa and elsewhere in the U.S. His work is in numerous public and private collections including John Deere, Iowa State University and the Chicago Federal Reserve.



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

Success with watercolor requires an understanding of what happens when a particular consistency of paint is applied to a particular condition of paper. This understanding will allow you to make decisions while painting. The workshop will explore:

- The basic, non-negotiable properties of the medium which apply to all watercolor styles and to any type or brand of materials.
- The 3 conditions of the paper and 2 consistencies of paint that let you produce predictable results rather than hope for happy accidents.
- Interpreting subjects appropriately for watercolor.
- Planning the painting process.
- Strategies for working on location (we will learn some key techniques indoors and then work on site).

The workshop will include daily demonstrations and instruction, followed by student work with lots of instructor feedback. An indoor venue and references will be available for inclement weather.

Cost: \$330 Minimum 8 / Maximum 15 students

Getting Confident with Watercolor

John Preston

Recommended Materials List

(Contact John if you want specific recommendations)
skwirlmop@gmail.com

Paints (in tubes - the first 4 are indispensable)

Ultramarine Blue

Transparent Red Iron Oxide or Burnt Sienna

Quinacridone Rose or Alizarin Crimson

Yellow Ochre

Naphthol Red or Cadmium Red Light

Cadmium Yellow Light or Hansa Yellow Light or Azo Yellow

Prussian Blue

2 brushes

A mop style wash brush equivalent to #14-16 in a round (squirrel or synthetic squirrel).

A #10-12 nylon round

Paper

140 lb cold press (Saunders, Arches or a 100% cotton paper. *Paper quality affects outcome more than brushes or paint*).

Full sheets cut into 11"x15" quarters or an equivalent sized block

3B pencil

Kneaded eraser

Water container (should hold approximately 12 ounces)

Ordinary masking tape (PLEASE not the green or blue kind)

Palette

Something white which has pockets for the paint and separate areas to mix "puddles"
(The plastic folding type are good).

Board approximately 12"x16"

Portable easel for outdoor work

Comfort items as desired (hat, sunblock, etc)

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ e-mail _____

This workshop is open to all skill levels from experienced beginner to advanced. Experienced beginner for this workshop means you have some background in drawing and in a medium that involves color.

Skill level: Experienced Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____

Mail to: Bluff Strokes, PO Box 3405, Dubuque, IA 52004

Workshop Cost: \$330

Registration fee: \$110 (include check payable to Bluff Strokes)
Remaining cost payable at beginning of workshop

Location:

This workshop will be taught en plein air around the Dubuque area and in the painting studio at Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa. Logistics will be provided prior to the beginning of the workshop.

Physical requirements:

This workshop will require participants to be able to walk short distances (up to 200 yards) and carry materials across paved or sloped grassy areas.

Registration policy:

While we understand that circumstances arise causing changes in your plans, we also need to secure our workshops financially and contractually.

- We will begin depositing checks and confirming registrations once our minimum class size is reached. If we don't secure a minimum participant list by May 27, the workshop will be cancelled and we will refund you.
- Registration in workshops will be in the order of checks received.
- If we exceed our workshop maximum, a waiting list will be established. If we can fill your spot from the waiting list, we will refund your deposit upon request.

Recording:

There will be no recording of this workshop.

Registration questions: Wes Heitzman 563-845-1801 info@bluffstrokes.org

Instructor questions: John Preston 641-451-4704 skwirlmop@gmail.com